

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2008
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE, N.Y.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Gil Cardillo	Vice Chairman, Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton
Edward Walters	Trustee, Southampton

ABSENT

Gary Olsen	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Gregory Dawson	Trustee, Town of Islip

PARKS DEPARTMENT

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Karen Nicholson	Superintendent of Parks
Colleen Logan Hofmeister	Contracts Manager
Colleen Wahrer	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Deputy Director, Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office
Thomas Ryan	Office of Legislator Vilorio-Fisher

Vice Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order. All welcomed the new Trustee for Southampton, Ed Walters.

PUBLIC PORTION

Ginny Munger Kahn, Barbara Buscareno and Denis Feldman-LI Dog Owners Group

The LI Dog Owners Group wanted to address reports that the dog parks at West Hills and Blydenburgh are not being kept clean by dog owners. The group expressed that keeping the dog parks clean is an

important issue to both the group and fellow dog owners. In the past they have run “clean park campaigns” at the parks, handed out flyers and educated fellow dog owners about the importance of cleaning up after their dogs. They would be willing to do that again in the near future.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Corwin. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

Lauretta Fischer proposed four acquisitions. Colored site maps were distributed describing each property.

Carlls River Watershed Addition-Vaccaro and Gordon property, Town of Babylon

The acquisition of .25 acres in Deer Park, Town of Babylon. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk Drinking Water Protection Program (C12-5(E)(1)(b)).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Froehlich/Wicks Addition-Riker property Town of Huntington

The acquisition of 2 parcels about 2 ½ acres each totaling 5.11 acres in Cold Spring Harbor, Town of Huntington. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk Drinking Water Protection Program (C12-5(E)(1b)).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Walters. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Peconic River County Park (Pine Barrens Core) – Joachim Property Town of Riverhead

The acquisition of .70 acres in Riverhead, Town of Riverhead. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk Drinking Water Protection Program (C12-5 (E)(1b)).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Cardillo and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approve by a vote of 9-0-0.

Cathedral Pines County Park (Pine Barrens Core) – Anything You Want, LLC Property Town of Brookhaven

The acquisition of 1.9 acres in Middle Island, Town of Brookhaven. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk Drinking Water Protection Program (C12-5(E)(1b)).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Engel and seconded by Trustee McKay. This motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Village of Lindenhurst re: South Bay Street Property Proposed Acquisition

Commissioner Pavacic received a call from Brendan Stanton with Legislator Horsley’s Office. He respectively requested that the Board table any action on this matter until such time as Lindenhurst Village Mayor Brennan is able to attend a meeting and until such time as a new Trustee is appointed from the Town of Babylon.

Vice Chairman Cardillo suggested that it be open for discussion. He recalled that the Board had previously heard a presentation by Shawn Cullinane, Lindenhurst Village Administrator, and last month

the Trustees went on a field trip to visit the property. The Vice Chairman asked the Board if they want to table the issue until the next time or how they would like to proceed?

Trustee Schilling asked if there was any deadline.

Lauretta Fischer responded “no”, it is proposed to be purchased from the Village.

Vice Chairman Cardillo said the Village owns it now and they would like the County to purchase it.

Trustee Schilling feels that we do not have anything to lose by tabling it until the Mayor is able to come and speak with the Board.

A motion to table this acquisition was made by Trustee Schilling.

Trustee McKay explained that he already has a motion on the table from about 2 or 3 months ago to deny this. That motion still has to be disposed of at some point in time.

Trustee McKay said if they wait until a new Trustee is appointed it could be a month or even as long as two or three months.

Trustee Corwin feels that the request to delay consideration until the Mayor can speak with us or a new Trustee is appointed is fine. The property is protected.

Trustee Borden said there was already a motion on the table to table it and there has not been any motion to take it off the table as of yet. He thinks that the Board can move on.

Vice Chairman Cardillo said that in the interest of fairness perhaps the Board can table this until next month.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner updated everyone on the recovery of Ann Rothenberg, Secretary to the Commissioner. She is doing well and is hoping to return soon. She thanks everyone for all their thoughts and prayers.

Commissioner received a nice thank you from the family of John Fritz for recognition given by the Board members and other folks. It was passed around for everyone to read.

Coindre Hall Proposed Dog Park

At the last Trustees meeting the Commissioner informed the Board that he received a proposal from Long Island Dog for a natural border dog run to be established at Coindre Hall in Huntington. The Commissioner requested that the Board consider putting this on the agenda for the next meeting and also having the next meeting at Coindre Hall. He will distribute copies of the proposal and also a copy of a letter from William Milanese, a neighbor of Coindre Hall who represents himself and other neighbors opposed to the dog park designation for this site.

Trustee McKay reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM.

The Board agreed to meet at Coindre Hall on November 20, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.

The Commissioner explained that this issue has been around for a while. Some dog owners had been letting their dogs off leash long before the property was transferred to the Parks Department. Presently

dogs are not allowed off leash at that property. We have signs posted at that Park and there have been summonses issued by Park Police. It is a significant issue. We have many organizations that utilize the facility and surrounding areas at Coindre Hall. Sagamore Rowing Club uses the area by the Boat House, the Town of Huntington has an agreement with us to utilize the gymnasium and run recreation programs there including some outdoor programs during the summer. We have tenants - Splashes of Hope and Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program that utilize offices there and we have a catering operation at the facility which utilizes the grounds for some of their events. At this time, the County has two formal dog runs. They are fenced in dog runs located at West Hills in Huntington and Blydenburgh County Park in Smithtown.

Trustee Schilling asks if dogs are allowed in County Parks as long as they are leashed.

The Commissioner replied "yes" as long as they are leashed unless otherwise posted. Sometimes there may be a sensitive nature to the property such as Piping Plovers or endangered species. They are only allowed off leash in the designated dog run areas.

Trustee Engel asked if we can identify other locations within that property.

The Commissioner explained that there was a proposal to put a fenced in dog run within the lawn area that went before the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ). The entire property is part of the Historic Trust. That proposal was denied by them as being inconsistent and being in conflict with the historic designation. Several years ago a resolution was passed initiating a pilot program. A fenced in dog run was to be constructed lower on the property. CEQ approved of this alternative site. The Town of Huntington was going to assist in the creation and oversight of this dog run. There was opposition from neighbors, and dog owners did not like the site, so Parks was asked to back away from that proposal.

Operating Budget

The Commissioner said Parks will have an Operating Budget hearing before the Legislature next week. As everyone knows from reading newspapers and so forth, times are difficult all around we are looking at a tightened up budget for next year.

Cell Towers

The Commissioner was advised that a meeting of the Cell Tower Site Committee was held yesterday. The properties at Cedar Beach and Timber Point are off the official list. The company that would be interested in placing those towers would have to come directly to both the Parks Department and the Parks Trustees to seek approvals.

Beach Projects

The Commissioner explained that the Department has been moving along with a project to nourish the beaches. We have received all necessary permits and approvals and the Great Lakes Dredging Company is doing the work. They should be starting sometime in mid-November. They will pump sand from Moriches Inlet and place it on both Smith Point and Meschutt beaches.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Smith Point Fishing Pier

Vice Chairman Cardillo asked about the progress at the Fishing Pier.

Terry Maccarrone reports that there are no changes since the last meeting. DPW is still looking to have contracts signed by January and construction to begin next year and hope to be completed by the end of the year.

Tom Ryan reported that the legislation for the naming of the Pier has been drafted and will be on the agenda at the next meeting cycle.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Corwin reported that he and Vice Chairman Cardillo and Trustee Corwin went to the Riverhead Town Hall where the Charter Revision Commission was meeting and that 11 out of 15 members were present and it was safe to say the revision proposal was warmly received.

Trustee White reports that the GATR site is still plugging along. He also would like to welcome Trustee Walters to the meeting.

Trustee Walters thanked everyone and mentioned he learned many things at his first meeting.

Trustee McKay mentioned that the Town Huntington has a fifteen (15) million dollar open space and park improvement bond issue on the ballot in a couple of weeks. Five (5) million dollars is for open space acquisitions so they can continue their partnership with the County in acquiring additional open space in Huntington.

The Commissioner requested the Board go into executive session at this time for a discussion with Colleen Hofmeister.

A motion was made by Trustee Borden to go into Executive Session and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Borden to cancel the Executive Session seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

A motion to approve the proposed Coindre Hall RFP was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee Walters. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

The Commissioner discussed one more important issue, the Park Police. The Park Police do a terrific job. This year the Department has added 14 new Park Police Officers to the staff. There is speculation at this time that the Sheriffs Office wants control over the Park Police. As of today, it has not been formally proposed and not incorporated in the 2009 Operating Budget. We are still very concerned and if it were to be formally proposed, we would like to ask the Board to pass a resolution opposing Park Police being transferred to the Sheriff's Department

A motion to adjourn the meeting at this time was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.